



Where do I go?
Who do I call?
What should I do next?

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE?

It is often difficult for the public to know what agency to call regarding issues that impact their health or quality of life. This document identifies who you should call if you have concerns about air quality and other environmental issues.

How to File An Effective Air Quality Complaint

Air emissions from commercial and industrial operations are regulated by the Air Quality Division of the MDEQ. If you would like to file a complaint regarding odors, dust, or other air pollutants being emitted from these operations, please follow these guidelines which will aid Air Quality Division (AQD) staff in directing their investigation.

- **Complainant Information**

The complainant should provide their name, address, and phone number in the event that AQD staff needs to contact them with questions regarding the complaint. It is important to note that the same Freedom of Information Act that allows access to our records, including complaint information, also allows us to keep the complainant's identity confidential. The complainant must inform AQD staff if they would like their identity to be kept confidential.

- **Source**

Although investigating the source of an environmental problem is ultimately the responsibility of AQD staff, an identification of the potential source or geographic area of a problem helps to narrow down the search, resulting in a quicker investigation (and subsequent action, if appropriate).

- **Location**

The complainant should provide the location of the suspected source of the problem (if the source's address is unknown, simply providing the closest cross streets or the location of the source in relation to the complainant's location is of great help).

- **Description of the Problem**

The complainant should describe the nature of the problem. Typically, a complaint falls into one of the following categories:

1. Odors
2. Excess opacity or smoke (typically from a stack or vent or from a storage pile)
3. Fallout of particles (onto complainant's property, street, car, etc.)
4. Burning
5. Dust
6. Suspected health effects

- **Time and Duration of the Problem**

The complainant should try to contact somebody as soon as possible upon noticing a problem. As the period of time between the problem being noticed and the investigation by MDEQ staff increases, it can become more difficult to cite a violation. This is especially true in the case of sporadic problems (non-continuous problems that do not appear to follow a specific pattern in terms of their reoccurrence).

Along these lines, the complainant should attempt to provide information as to the duration of the problem and any patterns they observed. For example, is the problem an ongoing occurrence? Are there days/times when the problem is more likely to occur? For example, the problem always seems to occur at night.

**For air complaints in St. Clair County, contact Sebastian Kallumkal
 (Air Quality Division – Southeast Michigan District Office) at 586 753-3738 or kallumks@michigan.gov**

Whom To Contact for Environmental Issues

ISSUE	CONTACT
Agricultural odors	Michigan Department of Agriculture Hotline 877-632-1783 or Email: MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov
Air emissions from industrial and commercial operations located in St. Clair County	MDEQ Air Quality Division Southeast Michigan District Office 586 753-3738
Automobile fuel tampering	Michigan Department of Agriculture 800-MDAFUEL or U.S. EPA, Ann Arbor 734-214-4200
Environmental pollution emergencies such as tanker accidents, pipeline breaks, and releases of reportable quantities of hazardous substances	Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS Hotline) 800-292-4706
Freon releases	U.S. EPA Region 5 http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html
Illegal discharge (to sewers, rivers and streams, ground)	PEAS Hotline 800-292-4706
Illegal dumping	<u>For tires:</u> MDEQ Resource Management Division Southeast Michigan District Office 586 753-3700 <u>For suspected hazardous wastes:</u> PEAS Hotline 800-292-4706
Indoor air pollution (commercial or industrial)	Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) 800-866-4674 Michigan Department of Community Health 800-648-6942
Indoor air pollution (residential), issues such as mold and radon gas	U.S. EPA Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse Hotline 800-438-4318 National Safety Council Radon Hotline 800-557-2366 Michigan Department of Community Health 800-648-6942 MDEQ Radon Program 800-723-6642
Noise (e.g., a facility creating a noise problem)	The city or township in which the facility is located (local nuisance ordinance). Marine City: 810 765-8846
Odors from landfills and solid waste transfer stations	MDEQ Resource Management Division Southeast Michigan District Office 586 753-3700
Odors from oil or gas producing facilities	MDEQ Office of Geological Survey 586 753-3700
Odors from wastewater treatment facilities and lagoons	MDEQ Water Resources Division 586 753-3700
Open burning at a private residence (leaves, wood, rubbish)	The city or township in which the burning is taking place. They often have local ordinances addressing open burning. Marine City: 810 765-8846
Road dust	The county road commission or responsible municipality. St. Clair County Road Commission: 810 364-5720 MDEQ Air Quality Division, Southeast Michigan District Office, can also be contacted. 586 753-3700
Wetland issues	MDEQ Water Resources Division 586 753-3700